

off the PR spinmeisters, put down the communications plan. It is time to level with the American people.

SENATE RULES

Mr. McCONNELL. It has been over 140 days now since we settled here in the Senate the issue of the Senate's rules. We settled it conclusively not only this January but actually January 2 years before that. What happened this January is we had an extensive bipartisan discussion about what rules or standing orders we might change. In the wake of that discussion, we passed two rules changes and two standing orders.

The majority leader said—well, this is what he said 2 years ago:

I agree that the proper way to change the Senate rules is through the procedures established in those rules, and I will oppose any effort in this Congress or the next to change the Senate's rules other than through the regular order.

That was in January of 2011. What he said back in 2011—and the reason I put that up even though that was a previous Congress—he said either this Congress or the next Congress, the Congress we are in now.

This January, I said to the majority leader:

I would confirm with the majority leader that the Senate would not consider other resolutions relating to any standing order or rules this Congress unless they went through the regular order process?

That was this January, just a few months ago, a little over 140 days.

The majority leader said:

That is correct. Any other resolutions related to Senate procedure would be subject to a regular order process, including consideration by the Rules Committee.

Now, that is not ambiguous. That is not ambiguous at all.

So the reason I and my colleagues have been talking about this repeatedly is that this is a huge institutional issue. The naive notion that somehow you can break the rules of the Senate to change the rules of the Senate for nominations only was laid out by Senator ALEXANDER yesterday in which he suggested a hypothetical series of measures that, if I were in the job the majority leader is currently in a year and a half from now, would be a very appealing agenda to my side, things like repealing ObamaCare, things like national right to work, things like opening ANWR.

Now, I would say to my friends on the other side, that is not something they would be very excited about, but in American politics things change. There is a tendency, when you are in the majority, to be kind of arrogant about it and to think the rules of the Senate are unnecessarily inconvenient to what you are trying to achieve.

Well, the Senate was designed from the very beginning—George Washington was actually asked during the Constitutional Convention: What do you think the Senate is going to be like?

He said: I think it is going to be like the saucer under the tea cup. The tea is going to slosh out of the cup, down to the saucer, and cool off.

In other words, they anticipated that the Senate would not be a place where things happen rapidly.

Written right into the Constitution is advise and consent. Advise and consent. The Senate has a role to play, for example, on nominations—which seem to be the fixation of the majority at the moment even though there is no evidence whatsoever that this administration has been treated poorly with regard to either executive branch or judicial nominations, no evidence at all. This is a manufactured crisis. Nevertheless, they seem to be focused on nominations. What do my friends in the majority think “advise and consent” means? Apparently they think it means “sit down and shut up. Do what I say when I tell you to.” I do not think that is what the Founding Fathers had in mind.

So there are a number of reasons we should not go down this road:

No. 1, the majority leader gave his word. Your word is the currency of the realm in the Senate. That ought to end it right there.

No. 2, do not assume you could just sort of surgically break the rules of the Senate to change the rules of the Senate for nominations only.

No. 3, I think it would be appropriate, since the American people change their minds from time to time about whom they would like to be in the majority of the Congress, to think about the consequences when the shoe is on the other foot.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, we obviously are talking about immigration this week and last week and next week. I am one of those who, after many years working on this subject, hopes we are successful in passing what I believe is good, credible immigration reform.

I have come to the conclusion, like many Americans, that the status quo is

simply unacceptable. I have talked a little bit about some of the bodies in unmarked graves that I witnessed myself in Brooks County, TX, where under the current broken system people come across the border from faraway lands only to die trying to get into this country and are buried in unmarked graves in places like Brooks County.

I met with a young woman who was prostituted after having been brought into the United States from Central America, and she worked in a Houston nightclub, where she was basically held as an indentured servant or slave because she knew she was vulnerable to deportation. So the person who brought her there and put her in that situation knew they had the power to keep her quiet and not disclose what was happening, while she was living a horrific existence.

Those are just a couple of examples why I believe our system is broken and neither serves our economic interests nor represents our American values. So I want a good solution. But it is not just what happens here in the Senate. That is not the end game. The end game is what happens when this bill goes to the House and once the House and the Senate get together in a conference committee and reconcile the differences between those two bills to see if we can actually get a bill which reflects our values and which represents our economic interests, things such as recruiting the best and the brightest minds from around the world to stay here in America and to create jobs here.

Those are some of the positives in the underlying bill that we need to preserve, but there are other issues we need to fix. That is what I want to talk about right now.

Last night the Congressional Budget Office released its long-awaited report on the underlying bill, the so-called Gang of 8 immigration bill people have heard so much about. The report, as usual, is a blizzard of numbers and estimates and projections, but here are two I want to talk about in particular, which you see reflected on this chart.

I think this is going to be a shocking revelation to most people who thought this bill would actually fix our broken immigration system.

If you will look behind me, it says: The number of new unauthorized immigrations in the United States by 2033 with the passage of the underlying bill, 7.5 million; without it, 10 million.

So what we see reflected in the Congressional Budget Office, which is the “coin of the realm,” the “gold standard”—whatever you want to call it—around here, love it or hate it, and we all find ourselves on different sides depending on the issue, but the gold standard, the Congressional Budget Office, says this bill will not fix the underlying problem.

In other words, despite all of the promises and perhaps I might say the hopes and the dreams and the good intentions of the authors of this underlying bill, this bill will have only a